

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1 and 8-10 and AMEND claims 2-4, 6, and 7 in accordance with the following:

1. (CANCELLED)

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A transaction management system ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising:

an authentication part for performing authentication by sending a user identifier and a password to an authentication system operated by an Internet service provider that should authenticate an accounting target user; and

a request part for making an accounting request to an accounting processing system operated by other than said Internet service provider when said authentication part succeeds in the authentication, wherein

said accounting process system is a system operated by a type 1 carrier for collecting fees from a plurality of contractors, and retaining a unique piece of contractor identifier given to each of the plurality of contractors and state-of-contract information showing whether or not the contractor has a nonpayment of the fee;

said transaction management system further comprises: a mapping-of-information storage part for storing a mapping of each of the plurality of user identifiers to at least one contractor identifier; an acquisition part for acquiring through communications the user identifier and the password given to a user by said Internet service provider from the user ordering a purchase of a certain article to any one of one or more purchase order accept system for accepting the order of purchasing the article through the communications, and the contractor identifier of the contractor made to pay a fee related to the article; and a judgement part for judging based on the state-of-contract information retained corresponding to the contractor identifier acquired by said acquisition part whether or not the contractor identified by the contractor identifier has the nonpayment of fee by exchanging information with said

accounting process system;_i

said authentication part authenticates a user's identity on the basis of the user identifier and the password acquired by said acquisition part by exchanging information through communications with said authentication system if the user identifier and the contractor identifier acquired by said acquisition have their mapping given by the mapping information stored in said mapping-of-information storage part;_i and

said request part requests said type 1 carrier to collect a price of the article from the contractor identified by the contractor identifier by notifying, when the user identity is authenticated by said authentication part and when said judgment part judges that the contractor does not have any nonpayment of fee, said purchase order accept system accepting the purchase order from the user that the user's identity has been authenticated, and by notifying said accounting process system of the contractor identifier acquired by said acquisition part and of a price of the article ordered for its purchase.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A transaction management system according to claim 2, wherein;

said accounting process system retains a unique piece of contractor identifier given to each of the plurality of contractors, a piece of state-of-contract information indicating whether or not the contractor has the nonpayment of fee, and plural pieces of attribute information for defining each of attributes of a plurality of categories with respect to the contractor;_i

said acquisition part acquires from the user pieces of information on the attributes of which the number corresponds to a price of the article ordered to be purchased, these attributes being selected at random from the attributes of the plurality of categories;_i

said transaction management system further comprises a judgement part for judging by exchanging the information with said accounting process system whether or not the information on the attributes of which the number corresponds to the price of the article that has been acquired by said acquisition part, is coincident with the attribute information on the same attributes that has been retained in said accounting process system;_i and

said request part functions when said judgement part judges that the information on the attributes of which the number corresponds to the price of the article that has been acquired by said acquisition part, is coincident with the attribute information on the same attributes that has been retained in said accounting process system.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A transaction management system according to claim 2,

further comprising:

a purchase condition information storage part stored with mappings of one or more pieces of purchase condition information for defining an attribute of the article to user identifiers different from each other; and

a judgement part for judging whether or not there is satisfied a purchase non-permission condition that the purchase condition information corresponding to the user identifier acquired by said acquisition part be stored in said purchase condition information storage part, and that the article ordered to be purchased does not have any attribute defined by the purchase condition information, ~~and~~ wherein

said request part functions only when said judging part judges that the purchase non-permission condition is not satisfied.

5. (ORIGINAL) A transaction management system according to claim 4, further comprising:

a second password storage part stored with one or more second passwords corresponding respectively to one or more pieces of purchase condition information stored in said purchase condition information storage part; and

a purchase condition information changing part for changing, when the same information as any one of the second passwords stored in said second password storage part, the purchase condition information corresponding to this second password into a piece of information corresponding to information that will be inputted thereafter.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A transaction management system according to claim 2, further comprising:

a second name acquisition part for causing a computer terminal used by the user to display a name of the article ordered to be purchased and acquiring a second name used as a substitute for the name of the article from the user through said computer terminal, wherein:

said request part, if notifying said purchase order accept system that the identity has been authenticated and when the second name has been acquired by said second name acquisition part, notifies the accounting process system of the second name together with the price, and notifies, when the second name has not been acquired by said second name acquisition part, said accounting process system of the name of the processing target article together with the price; and

said accounting process system creates a bill in which the information of which said

request part notifies is used as an account item name, for the processing target article, of a bill for a contractor identified by the contractor identifier acquired by said acquisition part.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A transaction management system according to claim 2, wherein:

said authentication system is a system that retains a mapping of an e-mail address of each contract user to a user identifier of the same contract user; and

said transaction management system further comprises a mail delivery part for delivering, if said request part notifies said purchase order accept system that the identity has been authenticated, an e-mail showing that the article has been purchased, with the e-mail address being used as a destination address, which is retained corresponding to the user identifier acquired by said acquisition part in said authentication system.

8. (CANCELLED)

9. (CANCELLED)

10. (CANCELLED)